

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 SS-15 L-03 CPR-02
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DRAFTED BY JCMONJO EA/PHL:MIJ
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O R 162108Z JUN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PDIP, RP

SUBJECT: GOP PROTESTS ALLEGED VIOLATION OF DIPLOMATIC
PREMISES

REF: (A) MANILA 09950 (B) STATE 151836

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY CALLED IN MINISTER HIDALGO
(AMB. ROMUALDEZ AND DCM BELISARIO BEING OUT OF TOWN) AF-
TERNOON JUNE 16 AND PRESENTED HIM WITH FOLLOWING NOTE EX-
PRESSING OUR REGRET FOR INCIDENT IN NEW YORK. (ROMUALDEZ
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HAD GIVEN NOTE TO OAKLEY JUNE 13 WHICH SAME AS THAT YOU
RECEIVED EXCEPT THAT IT ADDRESSED TO DEPT FROM PHIL EMBASSY)
MAKING APPROPRIATE CHANGES OF SENDER AND ADDRESSEE YOU SHOULD
DELIVER NOTE AND AN APOLOGY AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL,
AT A MINIMUM ROMULO, BUT PERHAPS MARCOS HIMSELF, GIVEN HIS
STATEMENT OVER RADIO.

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF JUNE 13, 1978, REFERRING TO VIOLATION OF THE PREMISES OF THE PHILIPPINE PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK CITY.

A

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS DEEP REGRET FOR THIS INCIDENT AND FOR ANY INTRUSION INTO THE DIPLOMATIC PREMISES WHICH MAY HAVE OCCURRED. THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO ASSURE THE EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO ENSURE THAT IT IS NOT REPEATED. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO WISHES TO ASSURE THE EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS INCIDENT WAS HANDLED IS NOT THE COMMON PRACTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BUT REPRESENTS A RESPONSE BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO A PECULIAR SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

QUOTE THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED A COMPLETE AND PROMPT REPORT ON THE INCIDENT FROM THE POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK. THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK HAS ALSO BEEN ADVISED OF THE ALLEGATIONS OF POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW SO THAT HE MAY ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVESTIGATE THE MATTER.

QUOTE IN THE MEANTIME WE WISH TO PROVIDE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT WHICH IS BASED ON PRELIMINARY ORAL REPORTS:

(A) THE INCIDENT BEGAN WITH A FIGHT INVOLVING EIGHT PERSONS IN THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINE CENTER.

THE COMBATANTS TURNED ON TWO LOCAL POLICEMEN ATTEMPTING TO QUELL THE DISTURBANCE.

(B) THE POLICE THEN ATTEMPTED TO ARREST ALL EIGHT. TWO WERE DETAINED. TWO FLED DOWN THE STREET. FOUR, INCLUDING ONE OBSERVED TO BE ARMED, FLED INTO MAHARLIKA RESTAURANT ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING. (THE RESTAURANT IS NOT PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED AS BEING THE PROPERTY OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT.)

(C) TWO OTHER POLICEMEN RESPONDING TO A "POLICE OFFICER NEEDS ASSISTANCE" CALL PURSUED THE FOUR INTO THE RESTAURANT. PERSONS IN THE RESTAURANT LOCKED THE DOOR AFTER THE TWO POLICEMEN HAD ENTERED, DENYING ENTRY TO POLICE REINFORCEMENTS.

(D) IN PURSUING SUSPECTS, THE TWO POLICE FOUND THEMSELVES IN THE MAIN LOBBY OF THE CONNECTING PHILIPPINE CENTER,

WHERE THEY ENCOUNTERED TWO OF THE SUSPECTS AND VARIOUS OTHER PERSONS IN THE BUILDING FORCIBLY ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT THE POLICE FROM MAKING ARREST.

(E) THE POLICE REINFORCEMENTS, OBSERVING THIS SCENE FROM OUTSIDE OF THE LOCKED ENTRANCE, WENT TO THE AID OF THE TWO OFFICERS BY FORCING THE LOCKED DOOR TO THE CULTURAL CENTER, ON THE GROUND FLOOR NEAR THE RESTAURANT, AND ENTERED WITH GUNS DRAWN, AS IS THEIR PRACTICE WHEN FIREARMS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED. (THE DOOR TO THE CULTURAL CENTER IS

NOT MARKED AS A PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT, BUT SAYS "WELCOME VISITORS." A PLAQUE WITH THE SEAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE LEFT OF THE DOOR WAS APPARENTLY MISSED IN THE CONFUSED SITUATION.)
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(F) THE POLICE SUCCEEDED IN ARRESTING TWO MORE SUSPECTS AND BROUGHT ALL FOUR TO THE LOCAL PRECINCT. THE POLICE AT THE PRECINCT WERE INFORMED THAT THE BUILDING IN QUESTION HOUSED THE UN MISSION AND CONSULATE. ON THIS BASIS, AFTER VERIFICATION THAT THE MISSION AND THE CONSULATE WERE LOCATED ON THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE BUILDING, AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE POLICE LEGAL COUNSEL, THE POLICE RELEASED ALL FOUR.

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO ASSURE THE EMBASSY OF ITS CONTINUING DESIRE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, JUNE 16, 1978.END QUOTE

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